

NEWS RELEASE

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O'FALLON WOMAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 12, 2007, **MONICA D. REED**, age 39, of O'Fallon, Illinois, was sentenced in Federal Court in East St. Louis for six counts of wire fraud, one count of bank fraud, one count of credit card fraud, one count of aggravated identity theft, and one count of use of a false document. These criminal offenses took place between March, 2004 and November, 2005 in Madison and St. Clair Counties and elsewhere. According to the Stipulation of Facts filed in this case, the criminal conduct included the misuse of a military "STAR" card, a benefit for military members and their dependents. **MONICA REED** went to a local bank and opened up a bank account under a false identity and under false pretenses. She falsely represented she was the wife of a soldier in Iraq and used a power of attorney from the purported soldier, who was in fact an inmate of a Georgia penitentiary.

REED was sentenced to a total of 111 months imprisonment, consisting of terms of 87 months on counts one through eight, a consecutive sentence of 24 months on count nine, and a concurrent term of 60 months on count ten.

The prosecution was the result of an investigation conducted by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and United States Postal Inspection Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Hudson.

If you think your identity has been stolen:

- ★ *Contact the fraud departments of any one of the three consumer reporting companies to place a fraud alert on your credit report. A fraud alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures before open any new accounts.*
- ★ *Close the accounts that you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.*
- ★ *File your complaint with the Federal Trade Commission [FTC] to report what happened. You can call the FTC's ID Theft Hotline-1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338) or use the FTC's online ID Theft Complaint form. You may print a copy of your complaint to provide important standardized information for your police report.*
- ★ *File a report with your local police or police in the community where the identity theft took place. Give the police a copy of your FTC ID Theft complaint form. Get a copy of the police report (or, at least, the police report number).*